



# Action Girl



**1st Birthday Issue Spectacular! Featuring: Carolyn Ridsdale,  
Patty Leidy, Amanda Lewis, Rebecca Dart and more!!**

# Action Girl

## COMICS

Voilà! You have discovered le cinquième numéro de *Action Demaiselle*! Thank you so much for picking it up! With this issue, *Action Girl Comics* celebrates one full year of existence — one full year of actually staying on schedule and staying true to my ideas about what this comic should be...and just in case this is your first time, let me tell you a little about those ideas. *Action Girl Comics* is an anthology showcasing female cartoonists. AGC has an all-ages sensibility, and is girl-positive and female-friendly — but never anti-boy. The idea is to be as inclusive as humanly possible, and to get the ideas and stories by my contributors and me out to as many people as we can. I am totally opposed to exclusivity — I hate feeling left out of something, and I don't want anyone else to have to feel that way. Also, it is wholly my comic — this is not a Slave Labor anthology that I happen to edit. It is a creator-owned book, which happens to contain not just my work, but the work of people I wish to include. The material contained in this book is hand-picked by me and will always reflect my sensibilities. Hopefully, you will enjoy what I have to offer — so please enjoy, no matter who or what you are!

Another important part of my philosophy is to encourage ACTION. And I mean action on every level. I think it's incredibly important to take control of your life and act in a way that has positive effects — even if it's something that only affects you directly, it still matters. People shouldn't feel that the only kinds of things that make a difference are the big things — political activity, writing for zines, singing in a band, or whatever. Anything you do to fight passive consumerism is action of a kind! Make things, learn to cook, do something you would normally pay someone else to do for you...when you are given an opportunity to give someone feedback (or even if you aren't) — take advantage of that and tell people what you think!



SEND LETTERS, COMMENTS, SUBMISSIONS,  
AND PRESENTS OF SANRIO TO:

SARAH DYER, AGC  
PO BOX 060380

STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306

e-mail: Alilena@aol.com

Action is especially important in comics — especially right now. If you like comics (and I'm assuming you do) you need to be an active consumer. Patronize shops that treat you well and order the books you ask for. Give them the benefit of the doubt — make them aware of what you want them to carry — but if they refuse to get the books you want, then take your money elsewhere. There is absolutely no book that a retailer cannot get for you. If they claim they cannot, they are either lazy or lying. Retailers are supposed to carry what their customers want — only in comics do they carry what they want instead.

And making them aware of what you want is important for everyone — not only does it ensure that you get your books, but it hopefully

ensures that the books stay in business. Be aware of what is coming out and make sure that it is being ordered for you. For example, retailers generally place small orders in January. So you can bet that many will order less copies of AGC #6 than they did of #5. Which means that some of you won't get a copy — and new readers won't have a chance. If you liked this, and you want to get future issues, you need to tell your retailer. And this is true of every small press book! Well, I've got to get off this subject before my headache comes back....(ow, ow!)

By the way: Jessica Abel's previously listed address was a box at a commercial mail place (you know, Office Max or something) which suddenly went out of business with no warning! She still doesn't know what happened to the mail that was delivered before they closed — for all we know, it'll sit there until someone rents the place. If you wrote Jessica this summer and didn't hear back, please try again at her new address: POB 642773, Chicago IL 60664-2773. And if you rent a box, get one at the US Post Office. As Jessica said, if they go out of business, we're all screwed.

Thanks go to all the usual suspects, and of course, YOU! My obligatory "soundtrack" for this issue includes — Boss Hog, the Hi-Fives (*Welcome to my Mind*), Chris Isaak (*San Francisco Days*), *Paris My Love*, and the Reader's Digest *South Sea Island Magic* collection. Cover by Patty Leidy, colors by moi. Stay warm, stock up on the hot chocolate and look for the sixth exciting issue in mid-January!

— xxxo, Sarah



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WHO'S GOT THOSE SEXY EYES?



...THAT TOOTHY GRIN?...



...THOSE BILLIGGG HANDS?



...WHY, THE LOVE OF MY LIFE, OF COURSE...

# GODZILLA

ゴジラ





WHAT COCTEAU WAS REALLY TRYING TO CONVEY WAS MAN'S INNER STRUGGLE WITH...

TRUE-TRUE... BUT STILL - THE DRINK ROSE SYMBOLIZES MAN'S LOSS OF HOPE FOR TRUE LOVE AND...

BLAH BLAH BLAH

HMMMPH - I STILL SAY ISHRO HONDA'S MASTERFUL DIRECTING OF GODZILLA VS. THE THING - CONVEYED MAN'S INABILITY TO COHABITATE WITH NATURE.

GODZILLA VS. MOTHRA - JAPANESE RELEASE TITLE



# Triple

Beth Johnson  
City Girl Art  
9/85  
by

# Lutz





A TALE FROM THE BANAMAS



THERE WAS A MAN WHO HAD A SON AND MARRIED A SECOND TIME, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT HIS NEW WIFE WAS REALLY A GARLIN (OR EGRET.)



EVERYTIME SHE COOKED HIM HIS PEAS AND RICE AND MEAT, SHE WOULD TELL HIM SHE DIDN'T WANT ANY, FOR SHE WASN'T FEELING VERY GOOD.



WHEN HER HUSBAND WENT TO WORK SHE TURNED BACK INTO A GARLIN AND FLEW TO THE BACK POND WHERE SHE ATE HER BELLYFULL OF CRABS AND FROGS.



SHE WOULD HURRY HOME AND TURN BACK INTO A PERSON BEFORE HER HUSBAND RETURNED AND FOUND OUT HER SECRET.



EVERYTIME HER HUSBAND LEFT SHE  
WOULD UNDRESS IN THE BEDROOM  
AND BEGIN TO SING:

*Kitty Kitty kee wang wah  
Kitty Kitty wang wah wah...*

THEN TWO WINGS  
WOULD COME OUT.

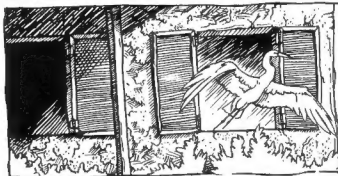


SHE'D CONTINUE SINGING:

*Kitty Kitty kee wang wah  
Kitty Kitty wang wah...*

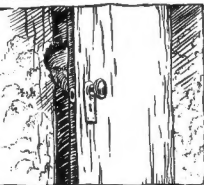
HER FEATHERS WOULD SPROUT ALL  
OVER HER BODY. SHE WOULD  
SING AGAIN!

*Kee bottom, kee bottom kee pyang,  
Kitty Kitty kee wang wah,  
Kee pyang...*



A BILL WOULD COME OUT...  
AND THEN SHE WOULD FLY  
OUT THE WINDOW AND  
DOWN TO THE POND TO  
CATCH MINNOWS.

THE MAN'S SON SUSPECTED HIS STEP-MOTHER  
WASN'T A PERSON, SO HE KEPT AN EYE ON  
HER. ONE DAY HE STAYED HOME AFTER HIS  
FATHER LEFT. HE HEARD HER SONG AND PEEKED IN  
THE DOOR JUST IN TIME TO SEE HER TURN  
INTO A GARLIN AND FLY AWAY.







WHEN HIS FATHER CAME HOME THAT NIGHT, THE LITTLE BOY SAID, "POPPA, THIS NEW WIFE YOU HAVE ISN'T REALLY A PERSON; SHE'S A GARLIN."

"THIS CAN'T BE."

"YES, POPPA, IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, KEEP WATCH ON HER LIKE I DID." HE DESCRIBED WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND SANG THE SONG FOR HIS FATHER.

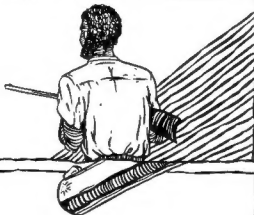
THE NEXT DAY THE GARLIN-WOMAN COOKED HER HUSBAND'S BREAKFAST. HE ATE SOME, AND THE BOY DID ALSO, BUT SHE WOULDN'T EAT.



HER HUSBAND OFFERED HER SOME, BUT SHE SAID, "NO, THANK YOU, I'M NOT FEELING WELL. I JUST CAN'T EAT THIS MORNING." THIS MADE HER HUSBAND VERY SUSPICIOUS.

HE WALKED FROM THE TABLE AND PICKED UP HIS RIFLE. HE LOADED IT AND BEGAN TO SING:

*Ketty Ketty kee wang wah...  
Ketty Ketty wang wah wah...*



AS HE SANG SHE STARTED CRYING, "PLEASE, HUSBAND, DON'T SING THAT SONG. IT REMINDS ME OF MY DEAD SISTER." SHE KNEW IF HE KEPT SINGING, SHE WOULD TURN INTO A BIRD RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM.



HE SANG ANYHOW. FIRST HER LEGS CAME OUT AND SECOND IT WAS HER WINGS.

*Ketty Ketty kee wang wah  
Ketty Ketty wang wah...*



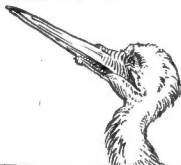
HE SANG UNTIL HER  
FEET CAME OUT...



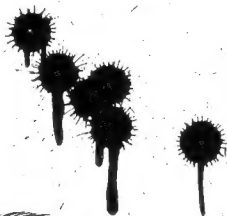
UNTIL HER FEATHERS  
CAME OUT...



... AND HER BILL ...



HE TOOK HIS GUN  
THEN, AND KILLED  
HER.



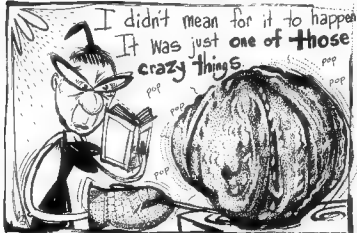
*The End*

# I had a lot on my mind.

by amanda LEWIS '95



I didn't mean for it to happen.  
It was just one of those  
crazy things.



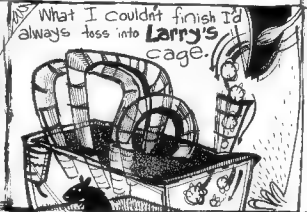
I was in college at the  
time trying to survive on a  
student's budget. Popcorn  
was the only food  
I could afford to eat.



I would binge until I  
was sick to squelch the craving  
for something tastier  
and more expensive.



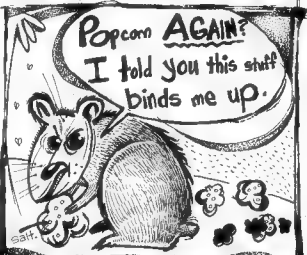
What I couldn't finish I'd  
always toss into Larry's  
cage.



Dehs your din-din,  
wittle wawwy.  
Mama wuvs woo.

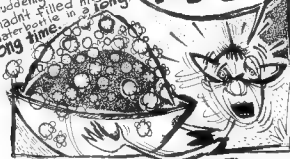


Popcorn AGAIN?  
I told you this stuff  
binds me up.



I shared my salty popcorn dinners with Larry for four grueling years. We were the best of friends until the middle of finals week my senior year when I suddenly realized I hadn't filled his water bottle in a long, long time.

oh my god



I ran to his cage. He was still alive but unconscious from dehydration and trapped in his hamster hut.

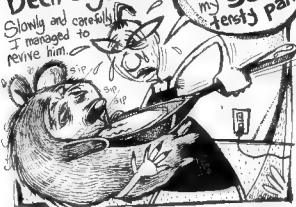
Hold on, Honey.



One more minute and he would've been a goner.

Slowly and carefully I managed to revive him.

Dwinkie, dwinkie, my sad, thirsty pal.



Did he bother to thank me for saving his life? NO. He was furious and refused to be cheered up.

Has Mama ever told wawwy how much she wuvv his cute witte tail?



Don't you ever, EVER touch me again.



Unfortunately the day I finally graduated poor old Larry

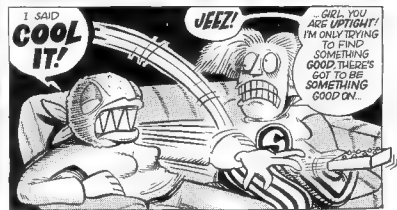
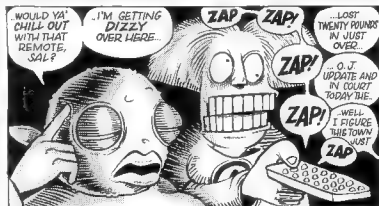


got eaten by my roommate's cat.

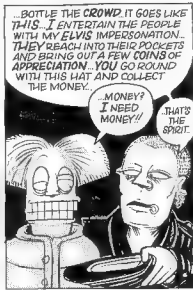
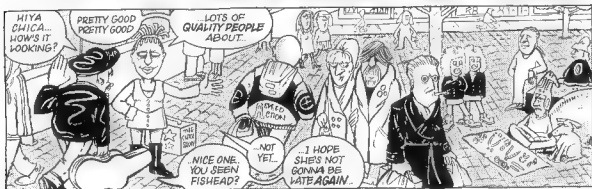
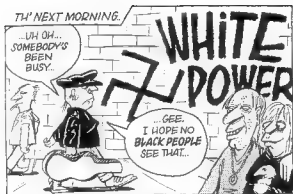
But ~~that~~ was an accident too. HONEST.

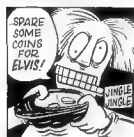
©1995  
CAROLYN  
RIDSDALE

# STRAIGHTEN UP AND FLY RIGHT

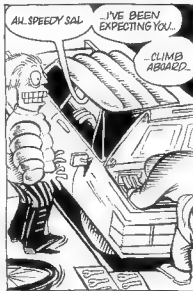
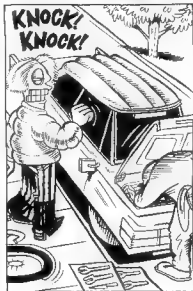
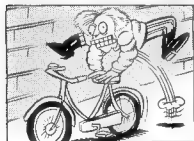
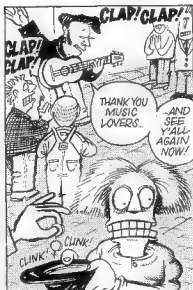
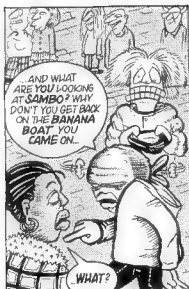


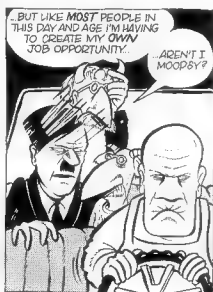


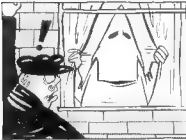












THE INDEFATIGABLE  
**GWEN**  
in  
**Marketing**  
by JENNIFER SORENSEN

OUR ADVENTURE BEGAN INNOCENTLY ENOUGH, AS TED AND I DECIDED TO CONCLUDE OUR AFTERNOON STROLL WITH A SWINGTHROUGH THE GROCER'S!



**Food EMPIRE**

LET'S GRAB SOME GRUB!



UPON ACQUIRING A MEAN-SPIRITED SHOPPING CART, I BEGAN A TIRADE AGAINST THE EVILS OF SUPERMARKET CULTURE!

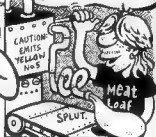
SOME THINGS ABOUT THIS PLACE MAKE ME FUME.

WOAAH! WOBBLE SKID!

FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED CLOSELY AT BREAD PACKAGING?



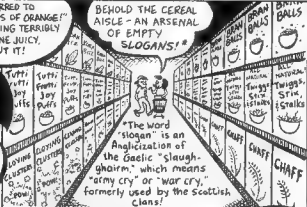
ALL BREAD COMPANIES HAVE THESE RIDICULOUSLY BUCOLIC NAMES, AS THOUGH THE BREAD IS LOVINGLY BAKED IN SOME ANTIQUATED FIREPLACE IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE! BUT THEY'RE REALLY SQUIRTED OUT OF A STEEL MACHINE IN HOBOKEN!



AND ORANGE JUICE PULP IS REFERRED TO AS "OLD-FASHIONED, JUICY BATS OF ORANGE!" WHAT?! IT'S PULP! NOTHING TERRIBLY OLD-FASHIONED, LET ALONE JUICY, ABOUT IT!

PULP GIVES ME GOOSEFLESH.

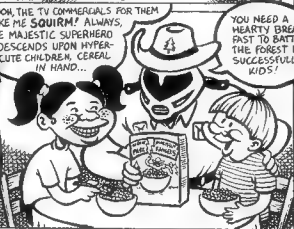
BEHOLD THE CEREAL AISLE - AN ARSENAL OF EMPTY SLOGANS!\*



AND THESE SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER CEREALS ARE THE BANE OF MY EXISTENCE!



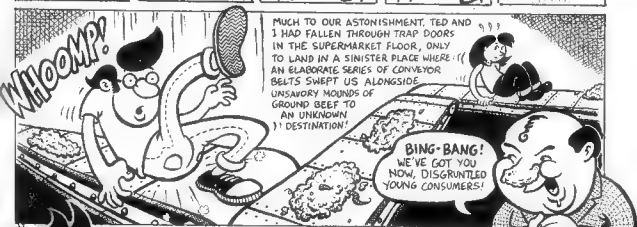
OOOH, THE TV COMMERCIALS FOR THEM MAKE ME SQUIRM! ALWAYS, THE MAJESTIC SUPERHERO DESCENDS UPON HYPERCUTE CHILDREN, CEREAL IN HAND...



YOU NEED A HEARTY BREAKFAST TO BATTLE THE FOREST FIRES SUCCESSFULLY, KIDS!

YES, I WONDER WHO DREAMS UP THIS SOULLESS GRAP!

HMMM... IT SEEMS GWEN HAS DISAPPEARED!



MUCH TO OUR ASTONISHMENT, TED AND I HAD FALLEN THROUGH TRAP DOORS IN THE SUPERMARKET FLOOR, ONLY TO LAND IN A SINISTER PLACE WHERE AN ELABORATE SERIES OF CONVEYOR BELTS SWEEPED US ALONGSIDE UNSAVORY MOUNDS OF GROUND BEEF TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION!

BING-BANG! WE'VE GOT YOU NOW, DISGRUNTLED YOUNG CONSUMERS!



AWK!



SPLORK!

CHOICE GUACAMOLE



WHIRRRR!

GLOM!

POOEY!



YIKES!



SPLOOSH!

IN THE END, TED AND I WOUND UP BACK WHERE WE STARTED, BUT SEEING THINGS FROM A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.



FROZEN FOOD

TRY OLD SANTAFE MAN-SIZE BURRITOS

AND LOOK, HAL! THEY'RE MICROWAVABLE!

# SCARY BISCUITS!



# Your Hostesses:



**Patty Leidy** is currently living in Atlanta hobnobbing with other cartoonists and sucking coffee down like it's going out of style. A Hello Kitty nut since 1980 and collector of Pez and all things strange. Her work has appeared in *Dog Soup*, *Naughty Bits* and her own comic collection, *Catfight*. Order *Catfight* for \$3 (ppd) or just write Patty to say hi at: 985 Greenwood Ave NE #2, Atlanta GA 30306. Send strange toys and get a free drawing!



**Beth Johnson** ("Triple Lutz") grew up with her twin sister, Laura, and an assortment of domestic cats and woodland creatures in Fairfax VA. As a child she loved to draw portraits of celebrities like Cher. She has several mini-comics available, including *Sweet Love* (\$1, "poetry" comics and metallic foil); *Ew That's Gross* (\$1, goofy gross glow-in-the-dark tales); and *ESP* (\$1, Buzzcocks homage); from 1644 Monroe St NW, WDC 20010.



**Rebecca Dart** ("The Woman Who Was A Bird") lives in the wintry climes of Canada with her husband, Robin Bougie, and her cat, Lopez Kittyman. Her work has appeared in *Twisted Vixen* and *Tropical Punch*. Her own minis are available from 223 Ave E North, Saskatoon, Sask., S7L 1R6, CANADA. *The Other 88%* (collected strips) is \$2 ppd, and *Loa* (a pictorial study of voodoo) is \$1.



**Amanda Lewis** ("I Had A Lot On My Mind") just returned from a month-long hiking trip through Wales, and is currently living in her parents' basement in suburban Pennsylvania. This is the first time her work has appeared in print. (But not the last!) She has never been very good with pets.

**Carolyn Ridsdale** ("Straighten Up and Fly Right") is an Australian expatriate now living in Amsterdam after serving time as an illustrator & comic strip creator. Her work appears regularly in *GirlFrenzy* and *Fanny*, and her own comic, *Maist*, is now available in the US.



**Jen Sorensen** ("Marketing") is a fourth-year Anthropology major/Women's Studies minor at the University of Virginia. She plans to work on more "Gwen" stories, and hopes to eventually collect them. To say hi, write: 8 Silver Mine Rd, Conestoga, PA 17516; or e-mail: jls6c@virginia.edu



**Carol Seatory** ("Scary Biscuits") was trained as a graphic designer and dreams of fame as a tapdancer or a character in *Love & Rockets*. Her work has appeared in *GirlFrenzy*, *Sofa*, been exhibited in the *Drawing Room* comic show and regularly appears in all the finest British magazines.



♥ ♥ ♥

## Your Hostesses — updates!

**Leanne Franson** has returned from her sojourn overseas and is back at work, having released the latest issue of *Liliane* ... **Megan Kelso** was a contributor to the *Dark Horse Presents* #100 series ... **Amy Frushour** has taken a short break from comics to produce a baby cartoonist! ... **Ms. Phink** has a new issue of her zine, *Hazmat*, out ... **She-Ra** gave up the leisurely pace of Atlanta for the town of towns, New York, where she is fulfilling her dreams as an employee at a major comic company ... **Kris Dresen** and collaborator **Jen Benka** have won a Xeric grant (congrats!!) and have put out a beautiful edition of *Manyo* ... **Ariel Bordeaux** has a new issue of *Deep Girl* out in a fantastic new format ... **Chris Tobey** is currently flitting about the country, but will be back next ish ... **Elizabeth Watasin** is catching up on her *A-Girl* mail and starting on her epic amount of work for next year's *Action Girl Comics*!

# Further Reading:

**Mini-comics:** After you've ordered all the minis listed in everyone's bios, start on this list — first, the long awaited *Adventures of A-Girl #4*, by Elizabeth Watasin, is finally out! The journey-to-Japan story concludes beautifully. You must get this!!! To do so, send \$1 to: 120 So. San Fernando Blvd #231, Burbank CA 91502. I recently read Ellen Forney's limited edition mini, *I Was Seven in '75* — square, with a hand-screened cover, this thing is hysterically funny and enjoyable to look at. I don't know if you can get this, actually, but if you see one, pick it up! I was given a couple of minis in San Diego by friends of the artists involved — *Jennifer Daydreamer #6*, by Jennifer Daydreamer, was new to me and really amazing. Her art is really attractive, with a line that seems to live, and the story is entrancing. Send \$1 to: POB 85265, Seattle WA 98145-1265. *Butt-Rash #2*, by Gheena, is a collection of shorter strips ranging from totally cartoony to lyrically illustrative. Well-written and with a good sense of humor. I'm not sure how you can get your own copy, but try sending a sase for ordering info to: World Comics, 28 SW 1st Ave, Portland OR 97204.

**All about comics:** As many of you know, comics are a much more important medium in Japan, with a diversity of work we can only dream of here. There is a huge amount of work done specifically for girls' magazines and comics, usually by women, virtually none of which has been translated yet. But now there's an English-speaking fan club devoted to the genre (which is called *shoujo manga*, or "girl's comics"). The first issue of their member's magazine, *Shoujo Shuusun*, is thick, detailed, informative and gorgeous to look at. If you have any interest in shoujo manga, please send a sase and request more info about the club to: Kim E. Marlo, 179 McNear Dr, San Rafael CA 94901-1446.

**Girl-friendly by guys:** New issues of perennial girl-friendly favorites *Love & Rockets* (Fantagraphics) and *Nausicaä* (Viz) have come out since last time. And, not that I'm biased, but Evan Dorkin's *the Mask: Hunt for Green October* (Dark Horse), is centered on a little girl, Emily, who will be kicking some serious villain ass in issue #4, out right about now. Emily is a really great girl character, and is really personal to me — maybe 'cause there's a little of me in her — it's hard to explain what I mean, exactly, but I think if you were ever a little girl, you'll find a lot of resonance in here, too.

**From the quarter bin:** I have scored so big in the old comics area, I'm going to have to do this in two parts at least...first, I finally found a copy of the 1977 Marvel anthology *The Superhero Women*, "by" Stan Lee. I've been trying to find this for ages — no collection is complete without it. It reprints several stories starring some of Marvel's most popular female characters, including: Medusa, Invisible Girl, Red Sonja, Ms. Marvel, the Black Widow, the Wasp, and villainess/goddess Hela — and it's absolutely great. And I found the closest thing to it from DC — issue #416 of *Adventure Comics* (1972), which is 100 pages of the "World's Greatest Super-Females". Twenty-four DC femmes are on the cover (a key is provided), and inside are 9 stories (mostly from the 1940s) featuring the likes of: the Black Canary; Phantom Lady; Merry, Girl of 1,000 Gimmicks; and of course, Supergirl and Wonder Woman. Also essential to the girl-comics collection is *Jet Dream and Her Stunt-Girl Counterespies* (Dell, 1968), which is not exactly good, but amazing nevertheless. Jet leads an all-girl team of pilots and stunt women, who hire out in the world of 60s espionage — fortunately they're on our side. There is nothing else like it in the world of comics! (However, there's something very much like it in a certain James Bond film....) I also scored several more issues of *the New Wonder Woman* (DC, 1968-72), leaving me with only four more to go! Now that I'm that close, I've been searching down all her cross-over appearances, which led me to *Adventure Comics* #397 (1970) in which Supergirl rips her costume during a fight (huh?) and goes to Diana Prince's boutique for a new outfit! Needless to say, Diana fixes her up with seriously Swingin' London super-togs! Supergirl, Diana and Morgana (the witch) bond over their clothes, then go fight supernatural crime together. I then ended up picking up a nice handful of *Adventure Comics* issues — the "new Supergirl" doesn't seem to have lasted long, but I found a few more issues anyway; and then started picking up non-mod issues as well, including a number of really cool issues involving other girl characters or even girl gangs!! But that'll have to wait until next time....

## Action Girl



## Next Issue:

Issue six will feature a new epic starring everyone's favorite super-type-girl, *Flying Girl*, by Elizabeth Watasin, as well as a bee-yoo-riful full-color painted cover by Elizabeth & myself. Also on the roster should be Roberta Gregory, Chris Tobey, Jessica Abel, lame old me, and lots more.... Ask your comic shop to pre-order it for you! Need back issues? Ask your shop to get them or order direct from Slave Labor Graphics (see info, inside back cover)! Until next time!

♥ Sarah



# Action Mail

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**Very junior Action Girl Kim Fields reading her favorite comic on the appropriate piece of furniture...**

Sarah — I love the little "superhero universe" you're building with Action Girl. Tongue-in-cheek, but still showing some affection for the genre. I like AG's "everybody's big sister" personality, and the way she beat Neutrina by attacking her silly wardrobe. Elm Mak's artwork is really gorgeous! More from her, please!

I do wonder, though, where AG got those band-aids and that ball-bearing thingie from. Maybe she needs a utility fanny-pack or something... Enjoyed "Susanoo", too. Wacky fun, and some interesting tricks with pacing, closure, etc. The little coda at the end was great!

JK Carrier

**Actually, AG has deep pockets in her skirt — if you look again, I think you'll see that she does reach into them... Elm and I will be teaming up for another AG/Trina story for issue #1 and I'll make sure she draws the pockets this time! Speaking of our little universe, here's a bit of trivia for you: Susanoo goes to school with AG and friends! (Flying Girl goes to school across town.) Maybe someday they'll have to meet...**

Dear Sarah,

I just picked up Issue #4 of Action Girl — how wonderful! When my friend, Gene Kannenberg, lent me the first two issues, I said to myself "Now here is the comic book I have been searching for all my life!" The book is diverse and funny. It speaks of a lot of things that had remained unspoken for me.

I started buying comics when I was six (in about 1976). But for some reason, I just couldn't stick with it. I mostly bought books that had female characters in them (like Red Sonja, Wonder Woman, Spider Woman etc...). Then I stopped. I thought that these stories were for boys and that it was unseemly (how that got into my mind, I'll never,

ever know!). It's not like my parents ever censored what I read. I didn't buy any more comics until I was 18. Even then, it was a search and I read a lot of crap (and a lot of good stuff as well). So, to make a long story short, when I picked up the first issue of Action Girl, my gut reaction was "YES!" And it keeps getting better! Number four was wonderful and I hope that the series will be around a long time!

Sorry, I'm getting too abstract! I loved the panel in "Dress Code" where AG throws a ball that breaks Trina's high heel. It says so much about how women are portrayed in the "mainstream/fanboy/fantasy" comic world. I also found "Susanoo the Brawler" an absolute scream!

Keep up the good work!

Wendy Goldberg

*Hey, abstract is fine! This story, however, is all too common — I know it's a lot like my own experience as a comics reader, and to this day I am not as "into" comics as I was as a little kid. Comics should be for everyone! Hopefully, AGC will help keep at least a few girls interested in the medium — as well as, of course, being a fun comic for everyone to enjoy every three months!*

Dear Sarah

Hi! I loved reading your comic book. I'm a big fangirl, and although I don't really have any girlfriends who are big comics readers, I know they exist because you exist. I'm originally from Little Rock, AR, and the comic book scene there is pretty lean. I try to keep up with all those great girl comics but sometimes I loose track. Now that I've moved to PA, there are tons of comic book stores and I'm starting to get back on track. I've found #1 and #3 of ACTION GIRL and I just eat it up! Thank you for such a great thing.

I have a big puzzling question twisting through my head. Around about the summer of 1993 I got a copy of a zine list by the name of ACTION GIRL. It was a totally rocking zine list and I mailed off for about a zillion zines. Since then I have moved, and although I am a very organized person, I lost the list and all but one of the zines. Well, I haven't seen this list anywhere again since! I was wondering if that ACTION GIRL and your ACTION GIRL were one and the same and,

if it were you, do you still put out that list? Thanks for your help!

Your fan, Kim Buckley

*Yes, the Action Girl comic is actually a spin-off of sorts of my Action Girl zine, which I still do (albeit infrequently these days). For those of you who've never heard of it, the Action Girl Newsletter (named for the one-paper Action Girl strips I was doing already) is a sort of Factsheet 5-style review zine of projects by girls. I started hooking up with all these great girls doing mini-comics, and AGC eventually burst forth from my head full-grown...*

I finally got #4 — what an issue! There was nothing I didn't like in this (sho I won't pretend to understand Beth Johnson's ditty). Personal highlights: AG story and paper dolls, Chris Tobey's Fanboy Gallery, and the absolutely hilarious Elizabeth Watasin strip. Is it just me or have I heard/seen the name Susanoo before? It's not exactly common... Trivia note: John Travolta was reading a copy of Modesty Blaise when he was on the john in Pulp Fiction.

N.

*On the Modesty Blaise tip, my pal John found an article on the 1966 film based on the MB comic strip! It looks wild beyond belief, and is on my must-find list now! Some really cool guy whose name unfortunately escapes me brought me a MB novel in San Diego which I enjoyed greatly, too...as far as Susanoo goes, "Susanoo-o" is the name of a Japanese mythological figure, who, um, fought a lot. There was a great animated film made of his legend, which was released here and has been on television, so perhaps you heard of it that way?*

Sarah,

Figured you'd like this anecdote....

I was walking down Main St. in Newark (DE, not NJ) and three different people in the space of a half hour stopped me and asked me about the AG bowling t-shirt (which I had just gotten in the mail the day before). So, at least at the U/Del, AG must be a hot item... >

Given your recent mentioning of old DC stuff (at least the Mrs. Peel Diana Prince), I was wondering if you had ever read Poison Ivy's first appearance in Batman 181. In it, she

## Action Girl Online!

Announcing the grand opening of the official Action Girl web page! Artwork, info, links to AG-approved sites, and lots more! Cool stuff that's not in the comic! I'm not sure how often it'll be updated, but it will be updated on a regular basis. If you have web access, come on over! Check all the Action out at:

<http://www.io.com/~rmartin/actiongirl.html>

# Action Mail

is 'fighting' with two or three other villainesses over who would 'get' Batman. (forgive the vagueness of the summary, I just moved and haven't had a chance to sort the many many boxes of books sitting in my dad's office). Anyway, I've always found it amusing, in a retro kinda way - lots of humorous 60s dialogue, esp. between Bruce and Dick.

Anyway, keep up the good work. I've managed to track down all 4 issues of AG and was impressed by all... mark coale

No, I had never seen Poison Ivy's first appearance until Mark graciously sent me a photocopy! It's a very funny and villainess-heavy story — I'd love a copy in my girl-book collection, and recommend it for everyone else's. Too bad the BatBooks are all so high-ticket these days! So, Mark, maybe you should get a couple extra shirts and sell them on the street, huh?

Dear Sarah,  
Instead of revising for my psychology degree final exams I've been pretending I'm not a student and that in fact I'm a comic book artist! Drawing this picture has been much more fun than trying to work out how to do a two way analysis of variance...with issue 4 AG's still got it...and it's about time we had some Action Girl strips...real girl superheroes, yay! Are they going to remain as infrequent as they have been, or are the adventures of AG gonna be a regular thing?  
Jude Melleng

Well, we're hoping to get our little 'Actionverse' into gear — the next three issues will all have stories featuring AG and/or Flying Girl and their friends. I'd really like to get them in more regularly, as I've got loads of stories! It's really a question of getting the comic under control and giving myself more time to do my own work again. Elizabeth and I both loved the drawing, by the way! (See Jude's lovely drawing above)

Dear Sarah,  
Both my husband, Steven, and I love Action Girl Comics! We like the variety of styles in the material and the pro-girl but boy-friendly sensibility. My favorite feature in the first three issues is probably your paper dolls — they always make me laugh.  
Janette Gerdes & Steve Sawolkin  
P.S. A funny story about my action boy husband Steve: when he was a little boy, he and his buddy preferred the Nancy Drew



books to the Hardy Boys. They were thrilled when they found one of those mail-order ads to join a Nancy Drew book club and get a new book each month. They were very disappointed when the mail-in card said to put on the top line "Your Daughter's Name." Their little kid minds thought that meant they couldn't send for the books, so they didn't even ask their parents! Now action boy Steve fights sexism wherever he finds it! This story was just too cute and funny not to print! Poor little Steve! Everyone should take this to heart and encourage youngsters you may come in contact with to pursue their interests whatever they are!

Little kids are easily disheartened and need our help!

Hi, Sarah —  
Just wanted to let you know that I recently discovered your Action Girl comic and I'm

hooked in a big way. It's like eating at a smorgasbord where the food not only tastes yummy but is good for you, too. And it prompted me to seek out other independent printed pleasures as well (like the Catbox Room by Lisa Maslowe). I've been lucky enough to find all four issues of Action Girl (I've been told that #2 is hard to find these days) and am looking forward to future issues. My husband also turned me on to *Mad Planet* recently, which he likes because he's a musician. That's my spiel. Thanks for listening, and keep up the good work!

Patti Sanchez

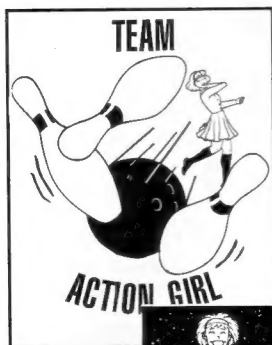
What's with all the food comparisons? Last issue AGC was a "literary pu-pu platter" and now it's a smorgasbord? As long as it's not a Morrison's buffet, I guess...actually, I like the food references, I'm a big fan of food...

Thanks to everyone else who wrote or e-mailed — I appreciate all the feedback I get! One comment — do not send me mail for an AGC contributor! If there is no address listed, that person is not interested in receiving mail. I've gotten several letters and packets for people who are in AGC (some of whose addresses were listed) and I really don't want to be responsible for their mail. I can barely manage my own! Thanks. And thanks to you all for your continuing support — you're the ones keeping this book coming out! Hope you all enjoyed this birthday issue as much as I did! Stay warm and see you in January!! — S.

## OH BOY! A CONTEST (SORT OF)

Announcing the stupendous interactive Action Girl Activity Page! Remember all those reader-designed outfits in Archie comics? I always thought that was really cool, so I'm giving you the chance to have your fun! Design an outfit (with or without commentary) for AG, and I'll pick my favorites and draw them in an Activity Page...boys and girls are eligible to send in their designs! Winning designers get, uh, their names in print and a complimentary copy sent from my home to theirs. Designs must be sent in by February 31st (96). Publication details will be announced in issue #6. Have fun!

# More Action Stuff!!



"Team Action Girl" ↑  
"Action Girl on the Moon" →



Action Girl

## Things to Buy:

1. **Action Girl Comics #1** — the premiere issue of our favorite anthology. **\$2.50**
2. **Action Girl Comics #2** — featuring everyone's favorite short story, "Mortality" by Elizabeth Watasin. "Josie tribute" cover. Second printing. **\$2.75**
3. **Action Girl Comics #3** — As seen in *Newsweek!* "Fashion Mag" cover. **\$2.50**
4. **Action Girl Comics #4** — "Pensive AG" cover, featuring Action Girl in "Dress Code" and Elizabeth Watasin's new character, Susanoo the Brawler. **\$2.75**
5. **Action Girl t-shirt #1** — The original "Action Girl on the Moon" design, drawn as a present for me by action boy Evan Dorkin. Purple on white, sizes medium through extra-large. (Note: girls; I'm 5'10" and I may be on the skinny side but even the medium isn't tight on me. If you've got a small frame you'll be swimming. I recommend ordering smaller than you might think you need.) **\$13.99**
6. **Action Girl t-shirt #2** — the shirt for 1995, with the cool bowling motif — "Team Action Girl", drawn by me. **\$13.99**



**What?** You say you don't want to order anything right now but you might want to in the future? Then simply write to Slave Labor and say: "Hey, guys! I love Action Girl! Send me a catalog!" you will receive a **FREE!** Action Girl sticker (of the "Action Girl on the Moon" t-shirt design) and a Slave Labor catalog, featuring all sorts of cool alternative books published by Slave Labor and other publishers. Trust me, this sticker is more than worth a 32¢ stamp!! Send your name and mailing address, and please, write *clearly!*

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